

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

We need a diversity of opinion from the media in this country, to preserve democracy and hold our officials accountable (regardless of which party they belong to). The fewer "owners" of media in each market we have, the fewer opinions. I already see this in two radio stations that I listen to: they read the same news word-for-word. Don't let big media corps get bigger at the expense of democracy and the right of the people to hear more points of view.